

WEATHER REPORT
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—Weather
forecast:
Northern California.—Rain tonight and
Wednesday; continued warm weather;
high southeasterly wind.
San Francisco and vicinity.—Rain to-
night and Wednesday.

Oakland Tribune.

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Associated Press Dispatches.

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VICTORY FOR THE BRITISH

Col. Pilcher Takes a Boer Laager and Forty Prisoners.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The War Office has received the following from Cape Town under today's date:
"Colonel Pilcher reports through the officer commanding at the Orange river: 'I have completely defeated a hostile command at the Sunnyside laager this day, January 1st, taking the laager and forty prisoners besides the killed and wounded. Our casualties are two privates killed and Lieutenant Adl wounded. Am encamped at Dover farm, twenty miles northwest of Belmont and eight miles from Sunnyside.'"

The success of General French's column at length confirmed officially, the War Office this afternoon issuing a dispatch from Cape Town, Monday, January 1st, as follows:

"French reports at 2 p. m. today from Coloskop by helicopter as follows:
GEN. FRENCH'S REPORT.

"Leaving at Rensburg, holding the enemy in front, half of the First Buffaloes and a section of the Royal Horse Artillery, I started thence at 5 in the afternoon of December 31st, taking with me five squadrons of cavalry, half of the Second Buffaloes, and eighty mounted infantry carried in wagons, and ten guns. I halted for four hours at Malters farm, and at 3:30 this morning occupied the kopie overlooking and west ward of Coloskop. The enemy's outposts were taken completely by surprise. At daylight we shelled the laager and annihilated the right of the enemy's position. The artillery fire in reply was hot from a 15-pounder, using Royal laboratory ammunition, and other guns. We shelled the guns of the enemy's right flank, demonstrating with cavalry and guns to the north of Coloskop, toward the junction, where a strong laager of the enemy was holding a hill position southeast of Coloskop as far as the junction.
"Our position cuts the line of retreat via the road and bridge. Some thousands of Boers with two guns are reported to be retreating towards Norvalspont.
"All Remington's scouts proceeded toward Acheerling yesterday morning. Slight casualties, about three killed, few wounded, details later."
Brief independent messages from Rensburg filed the evening of January 1st, slightly. According to these the British were still shelling the Boer position at 5 o'clock Monday evening, and expected to enter Coloskop today.
The British losses were three men killed and seven wounded.
BOERS LOST HEAVILY.
No officers were killed or wounded. The Boers are supposed to have suffered heavily from the accuracy of the British artillery fire. General French's statement that the Boers were using a fifteen-pounder and Woolwich ammunition evi-

ROOF GOES TO GROUND

Narrow Escape of the People on Fourteenth Street.

Immense Tin Roof Hurlled by the Wind to the Sidewalk.

Pedestrians at Fourteenth and Broadway this morning had a narrow escape from being struck by the tin roof of the row of buildings just east of the Macdonough Theater, which was torn off by the wind. The large sheet of tin, which was about 20x35 feet in dimensions, was raised bodily by the wind and was lodged on a lot of electric lines across the street. There it hung for about a quarter of an hour, threatening destruction to everybody in the vicinity.

The narrow gauge train had just come in and the street was crowded with people. The peril of the swinging sheet of tin caused a great deal of excitement on the street and for a time there was almost a panic.

Detective Shorey, however, assisted by several men who observed the catastrophe, hurriedly went to the rescue, and in a short time succeeded in getting the dangerous piece of tin to the ground. The report of the falling sheet could be heard several blocks away.

GUAM SLAVERY IS NOW ABOLISHED.

MANILA, January 2.—A naval officer who has arrived here from Guam brings a proclamation issued by Captain Leary, Governor of that island, decreeing the absolute prohibition and total abolition of slavery or peonage, the order taking effect February 23d.
The prologue of the proclamation declares that the Spanish system of peonage, amounting to slavery, is a menace to popular liberty and a violation of the privileges guaranteed by the American Constitution.

EARTHQUAKE'S AWFUL WORK.

Associated Press Dispatches by The Tribune's Special Leased Wire.
ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 2.—An earthquake yesterday destroyed ten villages in the Alchaklak district of the government of Tiflis.

FATHER LOST HIS REASON

Big Battle Waged Over Estate of L. Brooks.

Mrs. Wilkinson Wants Widow to Give Up Property.

From a complaint filed today it appears that there is to be a lively contest over property, formerly owned by the late Lafayette Brooks, who dropped dead at Haywards about two weeks ago.

Mrs. Alice M. Wilkinson, daughter of the late capitalist, and her husband, A. B. Wilkinson, have begun suit against the widow, Mrs. Mary P. Brooks, to have certain deeds to property executed by Brooks prior to his death cancelled.

Mrs. Wilkinson bases her suit upon her rights as heir to her father, whom she claims was mentally incompetent for five years prior to his death.

It is claimed that Brooks suffered from a stroke of mental paralysis to such an extent as to render him wholly incompetent to transact business.

At the time of his death Brooks was 68 years of age. The deeds conveying the contested property to his wife were executed on March 7, 1893, and on April 14, 1895.

The pieces of property are alleged to be worth \$15,000.

The plaintiffs ask that the widow be required to give the deeds up to be cancelled and that the transactions be declared void on the ground of the late capitalist's mental incapacity. Chapman and Calk and L. P. Larue are the attorneys for the plaintiffs.

MANUENSE A DEATH TRAP.

Associated Press Story Borne Out By the Investigation.

Associated Press Dispatches by The Tribune's Special Leased Wire.
MANILA, Jan. 2.—3:45 p. m.—Colonel Pettit, commanding the Thirty-first Infantry, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hayes, who commanded the three companies of that regiment on board the transport Manuense, which arrived here November 28th, and reported terrible experiences at sea, the steamer being classed as unsuited for service, and short of provisions, have filed official reports corroborating in every detail the exclusive story of the Associated Press at the time, describing the hardships of the soldiers.

The Colonel's report, which is particularly vigorous, recommends a claim against the ship's owners for the uniforms of the whole battalion, which were ruined during the passage.

ROME'S RULING STANDS

Classics, However, Will Be Taught at St. Mary's.

Brother Walter Tells About the Studies at the College.

A dispatch from Rome says:
"The Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda has made its report on the dispute between the heads of the Christian Brothers in the United States and the French superiors of the order, relative to the teaching of the classics in the Brothers' American schools."

"After consideration of the statement of the case submitted by Archbishop Patrick W. Riordan of San Francisco, the Congregation rules that the American claims to greater latitude in teaching than is permitted in Europe, are inadmissible."

"It is expected that the Pope will confirm the report at once. Cardinal Sattoli, who drafted the report, said:

"Just as the Americans adhere to their national constitution, so the Christian Brothers must maintain theirs. That constitution forbids the teaching of the classics."

It was thought that this ruling would completely change the course of study at St. Mary's College and other Catholic schools in this city.

Spoh, however, is not the case.

Brother Walter, Superior of St. Mary's College, said:

"We have been teaching both Latin and Greek ever since the college was established in 1893. This has been done in conformity with the regulations of the church and with the full knowledge of our superiors, who visit us from time to time."

"I think I can say with authority that so far as this institution is concerned there will be no change in the course of instruction."

"Not long ago two of our superiors from France visited our college while on a tour of inspection and gave their approval of the course of instruction. We now have five classes in Latin and four in Greek. No change so radical as the dropping of these studies would be made without thorough discussion and I am certain that no immediate change is contemplated so far as this college is concerned."

"As to whether a decision has been reached that will effect the course of instruction in other institutions in this country I am not in a position to speak with authority, though I understand the question is still under discussion."

"We have received no notice of any intended change in our college."

Mr. Monahan Ill.

P. Monahan, an aged Santa Clara county pioneer, is seriously ill at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. T. P. Hogan, at Adams' Point.

Mr. Monahan went to San Jose to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebration, and was taken suddenly ill, and returned to his Oakland home.

TROUBLE ON THE ENCINAL

Boat Crashes Into Slip and Causes Panic Among Passengers.

The ferry steamer Encinal of the narrow gauge route crashed into the pier at the Alameda mole this morning, and a number of passengers who were on the forward deck narrowly escaped serious injury. As it was, the front apron was smashed into splinters and only six men effected a landing. The rest were taken back to San Francisco, after numerous attempts to get into the slip had failed.

The accident occurred on the 9:15 o'clock trip from San Francisco.

The bar during the day was unusually rough, and after a dangerous trip across, the pilots attempted to make the regular landing.

The rudder, however, was not in good working order, and there was much difficulty in having the engineer obey the pilot's signals, owing to a disarrangement of the electric bells. Suddenly, before any one was aware of the trouble, the boat crashed into the piles and the apron was torn away.

Half a dozen passengers who were on the forward lower deck managed to jump ashore, notwithstanding the damaged apron, but the rest were not so lucky.

Time after time the steamer was run into the dock, but each time there was a crash, and try as they would the boat's officers could not effect a landing.

The passengers were naturally badly

frightened, and for a time it looked as if there would be a panic.

Finally those in charge of the boat gave up in despair, and it was decided to go back to San Francisco and transfer the passengers to another boat for transportation to this city. That no one was injured, particularly among those who disregarded the danger and jumped ashore is considered almost in the light of a miracle.

The bay was exceedingly rough all day, and the greatest of care had to be exercised by the ferry boat captains.

GARDEN CITY FAILS.

The steamer Garden City, which runs on the creek route, attempted to cross the bay this morning, but had to turn back. The bay was so rough that the captain would not take any chances.

EMMA ON DECK.

John L. Davis's little steamer Emma made the trip across the bay this morning in all the storm.

TRAINS STOPPED.

The narrow gauge trains did not run from 10 o'clock this morning until 3 o'clock this afternoon, on account of the broken apron at the pier.

TRACK GONE.

A section of track near the Narrow Gauge mole was washed away today. The track was repaired this afternoon.

cast of the local Weather Bureau is for a good rain tonight and tomorrow. The weather today is cloudy and threatening.

A slight shower occurred at 7 o'clock this morning. Rain is needed, and a good fall will do great good.

GALE OUTSIDE THE HEADS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—Rain has been falling here steadily for the past twenty-four hours, the precipitation being about one and one-half inches for the storm. The wind is blowing a gale all along the coast. The Merchants' Exchange reports that the velocity outside the heads is sixty miles an hour. Shipping in the harbor will suffer but little, as ample warning of the approach of the storm was given and every precaution was taken to prevent damage by the storm.

WILD RUSH FOR LIFE PRESERVERS

Huge Wave Causes Panic on Ferryboat Oakland.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—The heavy southeast wind kicked the bay into a stormy sea today, and crossing the bay was anything but pleasant. The ferry steamers were tossed about like row-boats, and several times the passengers were thoroughly frightened at the unusual occurrences.

Sickness was common.

A panic took place on the steamer Oakland this morning on the 10:25 o'clock trip from Oakland. Shortly after leaving the slip an immense wave was encountered, when the boat plunged into the trough and received the full force of the wave which broke the glass in the doors of the lower deck. Baggage and passengers were piled in confusion, and for a short time there was a panic.

A general rush was made for the life preservers, and it was some time before the nervousness of the passengers could be convinced that the boat was not going down.

GOOD EFFECT OF THE RAINS.

Associated Press Dispatches by The Tribune's Special Leased Wire.
FRESNO, Jan. 2.—The season's rainfall has been 4.38, and for the past twenty-four hours 3.3 of an inch. Showers are predicted for today and tomorrow. These showers, which have continued at intervals since Sunday, have had the effect of dissipating a season of heavy fogs and frost, which continued for three weeks previous, during which a glimpse of the sun has not been had. Agricultural prospects have never been more promising. The condition of the roads to the mountain districts has been such that the price of cordwood has gone up to \$1. It is a warm rain, which is soaking well into the ground and doing nothing but good. The season's rainfall is equal to the entire rainfall for the winter drought season of 1897-98.

PROSPECTS AT LOS ANGELES.
LOS ANGELES, January 2.—The fore-



C. H. WALKER, Dentist

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